

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/961,432

REMARKS

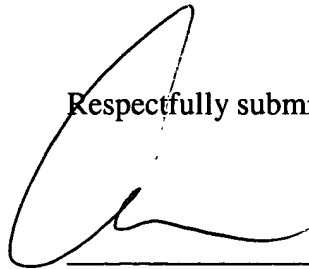
Claims 2-13 have been examined. Claims 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 2-5 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 6, 11, and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, claims 5, 10, and 12 have been cancelled, and claims 2-4 and 7-9 depend upon claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome and the case is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 18, 2004